

August 8, 2009

OBEY UPDATED ON WATERFRONT REDEVELOPMENT, WATER AND ROAD PROJECTS

CONGRESSMAN HIGHLIGHTS USE OF ARRA FUNDS TO CREATE JOBS, EASE LOCAL BUDGET SQUEEZE

CHIPPEWA FALLS, WI – Seventh District Congressman Dave Obey (D-WI) was in town today to get updates on the waterfront redevelopment project, the safe drinking water and well project, and improvements to Bridge Street. The Wisconsin Department of Commerce provided \$650,000 through a community development block grant (CDBG). The funds will be used for acquisition and demolition costs to assist the city with the effort.

The CDBG grant, along with \$1.95 million for the water project and \$221,400 for the road project came from the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds. These federal funds will be used to generate jobs in the short term. The community will realize long term economic benefits when the projects are completed.

“I’m glad to be here to see just how these ARRA funds are being put to use, said Obey.”
“There are important infrastructure projects that keep communities growing, and these federal resources are helping to ease the squeeze on tight budgets, so that ratepayers are not adversely impacted.”

Obey met with State Senator Pat Kreitlow (D-Chippewa Falls), Mayor Greg Hoffman, and other city officials. After a meeting at City Hall, the group did a walking tour of the affected downtown area.

The City of Chippewa Falls is undertaking a \$3 million waterfront redevelopment project which includes making significant infrastructure improvements. The project is expected to create 50 construction-related jobs and deliver long term economic development benefits to the community. The riverfront area will be developed as a park and vacant properties will be replaced with new housing and loft buildings.

The City is constructing a water treatment plant with ARRA funding and a loan from the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program (SDWLP). The efforts will include construction of a water treatment building, raw water line utility improvements and backwash water reclaim tank, among other improvements. Obey secured federal funds to make the \$1.95 million loan available to move the community's effort forward.

In addition, Bridge Street will be reconditioned with funds approved by Governor Doyle to help with local projects.

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